

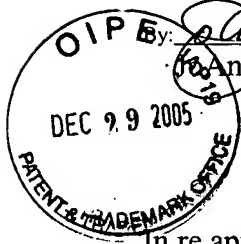
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 On December 27, 2005

*IFW*  
PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 021496-002110US  
Client Ref. No.: USGI-001C

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

RICHARD C. EWERS et al.

Application No.: 10/612,109

Filed: July 1, 2003

For: SHAPE LOCKABLE  
APPARATUS AND METHOD  
FOR ADVANCING AN  
INSTRUMENT THROUGH  
UNSUPPORTED ANATOMY

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 3376

Examiner: HAND, MELANIE JO

Technology Center/Art Unit: 3761

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND  
ELECTION OF SPECIES  
REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement mailed December 8, 2005, Applicants respectfully elect Group I, Species I, and identify claims 1-12, as reading on the elected Species.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

*[Signature]*  
Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heslin  
Reg. No. 29,541

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 650-326-2400 / Fax: 415-576-0300  
JMH:jke / 60667518 v1